

## RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

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Wyoming Board of Agriculture  
May 7, 2008  
Conference Call

Present: Juan Reyes  
Jim Mickelson  
Jim Bennage  
Joe Thomas  
Dave Graham  
Patrick Zimmerer  
John Hansen  
Bridget Kukowski  
Dalin Winters  
John Etchepare

Excused: Gene Hardy

Unexcused: Jack Corson  
Ryan Lance  
Frank Galey

Staff: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary  
Jason Fearneyhough

Guest: Cindy Weibel

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Juan made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 14 and 5, 2008 meeting. The motion was seconded by Jim Mickelson. Motion carried.**

### **Issues**

#### **Meeting with the Game and Fish Commission**

The members agreed to meet with the Game and Fish at the Expo on September 12 in Casper. They would like to discuss the following issues: Endangered Species, Property Rights, In-stream Flow, new wolf regulations; and have an update on the snaring issue.

Joe would like to have Mike Jiminez be there to help with the Endangered Species discussion. John suggested it would be best to not have staff at the meeting. He said he would check with Terry Cleveland and see what his thoughts are.

Jason attended the snaring meeting in Casper this week and updated the members on some of the reasons the Game and Fish is interested in changing the regulations. Some of the problems are trappers are taking more non-targets species with snares; the snares are

not being removed when no predators are found; the break-a-ways are too heavy and in the wrong place; and the traps are not checked on a regular basis.

### **Joint Ag Meeting**

Jason and John both attended the meeting held in Saratoga last week. Jason said they had good attendance and one of the topics they discussed were the Cottage Food Industry. The other Department topics included the Technical Services and Consumer Health Services Divisions and their reorientation. They also addressed the problem of permits being issued using electronic signatures. John said they also discussed the Coal Bed Methane Water Discharge issue. He said last year the Senate Minerals Committee introduced a pretty good bill, but got amended to the point it got destroyed. They also talked about a bill to allow State Lands the ability to retain 1% of their gross income to better manage the lands. Another issue was the problem with feral goats. The law needs to define their removal.

Mike Pursell addressed the committee and John said there was interesting discussion regarding the storage of water. Mike said the cost of building dams to store water is a waste of money unless the water is used. Jason feels the Water Development Council is struggling about funding existing applications as opposed to new projects. First they have to address whether there is a taxable entity and are they going to be able to fund the project. Jim Mickelson had heard about a bill Senator Barrasso was going to introduce regarding small water projects. John and Jason hadn't heard anything about it, but would find out.

The Livestock Board was also at the meeting to discuss the Park County elk seropositive number being elevated along the South Fork. Joe commented there is quite a bit of comingling of elk and cattle in his area. John also said the Brand Program good for identification but not trace back. There was an animal welfare meeting on May 5 at the depending on the outcome, it could affect the things done on ranches.

Cindy Garretson-Weibel talked to the committee about enhanced values of WBC and aggie bonds and they asked her to get back to them at their fall meeting regarding the bonding. John asked Cindy explained the feds provide tax free bonds to bank the bank, but that Wyoming needs to pass enabling legislation.

Joe congratulated John as being elected as President to the WLCI. John said they are in the process of finalizing their strategic plan and will be interview soon for the department's position. He said they are also waiting to finalize funding, but do have some programs on the ground.

### **Board of Agriculture Policies**

**Juan made a motion to approve the final draft of the Board of Ag's Policies. The motion was seconded by Jim Mickelson. Motion carried.**

**Laramie Rivers Conservation District Appointments**

**Jim Mickelson made a motion to approve Larry Munn to fill the unexpired rural term vacated by Jerry Johnson. The motion was seconded by Dalin Winters. Motion carried.**

**Jim Mickelson made a motion to approve Chariti Fisher to fill the unexpired term vacated by Nancy Stanton Thompson. The motion was seconded by Juan Reyes. Motion carried.**

**A motion to approve the transfer of \$359.80 to the Natural Resources/Policy budget to help cover some of the expenses from the Sage Grouse Conference was made by Dalin Winters. The motion was seconded by Dave Graham. Motion carried.**

**Meeting in Sheridan in July**

Jim Bennage said he has made some contacts regarding tours in the region and asked if the members had any special interests. After discussion, Jim will try and line out a look as some successful and not so successful coal bed methane water projects. Jim said the NRCS and the Paddlock Ranch would be interesting to the members.

Joe reminded everyone the next conference call would be May 21 at 7 a.m.

**Jim Mickelson made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Juan Reyes.**

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gene Hardy, President

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Date